

# What is FC-VTP?

Helena Rabie

Nothing to declare

- 1981 – Cases of PJP and Kaposi Sarcoma GRID
- 1982 – Cases in children who received transfusion and born to parents with risk factors

**POSTNATAL TRANSMISSION OF AIDS-ASSOCIATED RETROVIRUS FROM MOTHER TO INFANT**

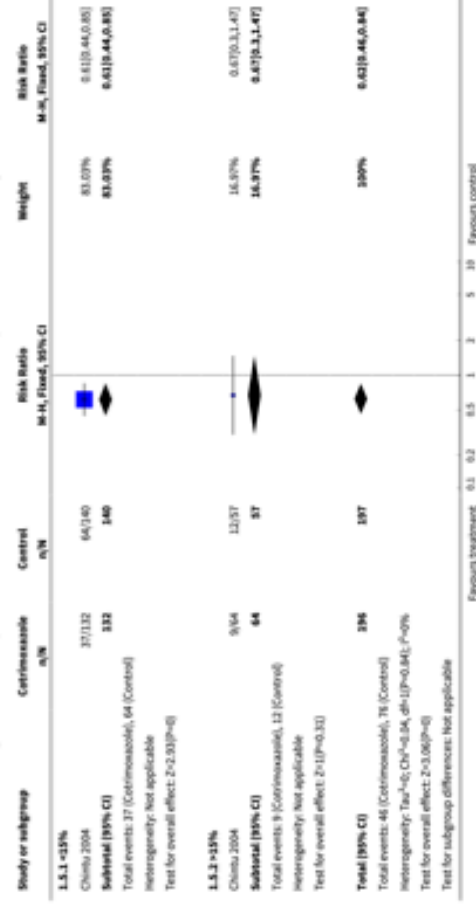
JOHN B. ZIEGLER      DAVID A. COOPER  
 RICHARD O. JOHNSON      JULIAN GOLD  
 for the Sydney AIDS Study Group\*

*Prince of Wales Children's and St Vincent's Hospitals, Centre for Immunology, University of NSW; and Albion Street Centre, Sydney Hospital, Sydney NSW Australia*

# Prevention

- 1993 – ACTG 076
- 1999 – HIVNET 012
- “Option B+”

Analysis 1.5. Comparison 1 Cotrimoxazole versus control, Outcome 5 Death by CD4%



Lancet 2004

- Denver principles
- First in 1983

#### **THE DENVER PRINCIPLES**

We condemn attempts to label us as "victims," a term which implies defeat, and we are only occasionally "patients," a term which implies passivity, helplessness, and dependence upon the care of others.

"...not scapegoat people with AIDS, blame us for the epidemic or generalize about our lifestyle"

[https://data.unaids.org/pub/externaldocument/2007/gipa1983/denverprinciples\\_en.pdf](https://data.unaids.org/pub/externaldocument/2007/gipa1983/denverprinciples_en.pdf)

## Words acknowledge or marginalize Words have a value judgement

- Infections
  - “corrupt, dirty, tainted” → neutral words, such as “acquire” and “transmit”
- HIV/AIDS - HIV (a virus) and AIDS (a clinical syndrome)
- Noncompliant – “illegal acts”
- Clean vs dirty – if I am clean are you dirty?
- Unsafe sex/ risky sex → condomless
- Sero-discordant → mixed status
- Elimination vs ending
- Compliant
- Drug addict
- Prostitute
- Victim/ sufferer

# People at the centre of the issue

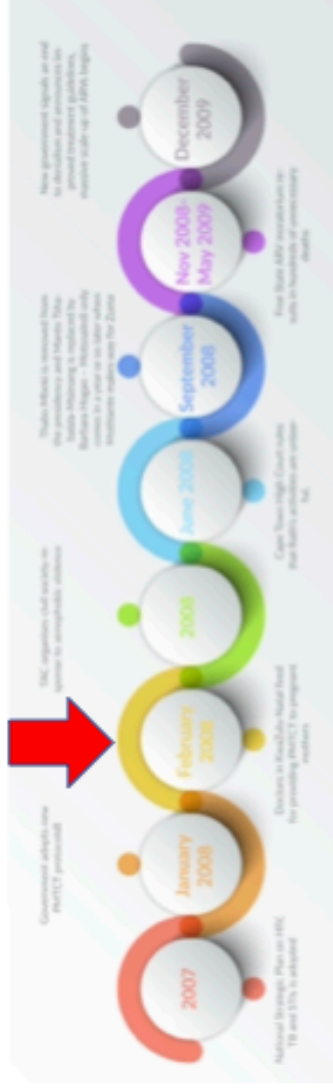
- Describe what the person has and not what the person is
- The person is placed before the diagnosis
- Respect
- Dignity
- Understanding

## Persons living with HIV

- Actual persons (not a mass of people) are being referred to
  - Even abbreviating to PLHIV can dull awareness
- Living – using the verb
- With HIV
- We affirm and emphasize our shared humanity
- We acknowledge that our identities, just as the identities of all human beings, are nuanced, evolving, and layered



# pMTCT



# Mother to Child Transmission

- Accusatory tone, blaming the mother for “transmitting” the virus to her child
- Not conducive to male involvement
- Elimination = HIV may be part of the identity
- Focusing on the event, rather than the persons involved
- Placing onus, blame and guilt for transmission of HIV to the baby solely on mother

# Lets listen to the community

- Comprehensive prevention of vertical transmission instead of MTCT
- Stopping or ending vertical transmission instead of elimination
- Internal and external stigma
- 13% of physicians still expressed discomfort treating PLWH
- LGBTQ phobia
- Issues around race

## Letter to the Editor

**Language, identity and HIV: why do we keep talking about the responsible and responsive use of language? Language matters**

Sophie Dilimitis<sup>1</sup>, Olive Edwards<sup>2</sup>, Beri Hull<sup>3,4</sup>, Shari Margoliese<sup>4</sup>, Naisiadet Mason<sup>5</sup>, Angelina Namiba<sup>6</sup>, Moomo Nyambe<sup>7</sup>, Susan Paxton<sup>8</sup>, Silvia Petretti<sup>9</sup>, Gracia Violeta Ross<sup>10</sup>, Alice Weibourn<sup>11</sup> and Anna Zakowicz<sup>7</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Corresponding author: Beri Hull, International Community of Women Living with HIV Global, 1345 Emerald Street, NE, Washington, DC 20002, USA. Tel: (202) 397-8488. (bericoglobal@gmail.com)

J AIS 2012

<https://www.thewellproject.org/>

<https://www.thebodypro.com/>

# Person first vs identity language

- Some communities prefer identity first language
  - Person first language “diminishes”
  - May accentuate stigma
- One (HIV) is coming from the outside in to the person
- The other is integral to the person and a way of being.
- Consider the person, the community and their preference

# People First Charter



<https://peoplefirstcharter.org>

# FC-VTP

## Family/Female Centered – Vertical Transmission Prevention

- Women are not simply “agents” towards the health of their infants and children
- The physical and mental wellbeing the woman is an important goal outside of the prevention of HIV acquisition to her infant
- Acknowledge the role of intimate partners and the support structures in the family and community

# FC-VTP

## Family/Female Centered – Vertical Transmission Prevention

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## Family-Centred Transmission Prevention of Communicable Infections

- An additional emphasis on other conditions that are transmitted in the perinatal period
- Tuberculosis and Syphilis (hepatitis malaria listeria etc)

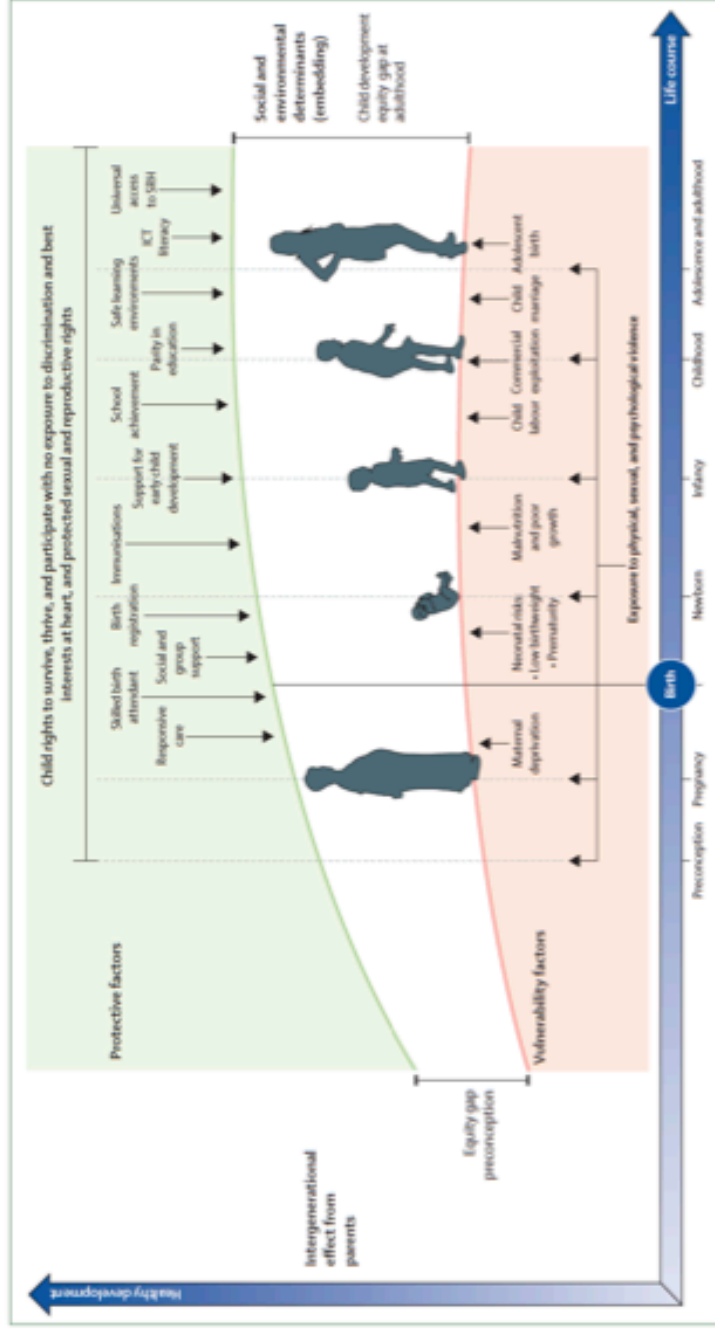
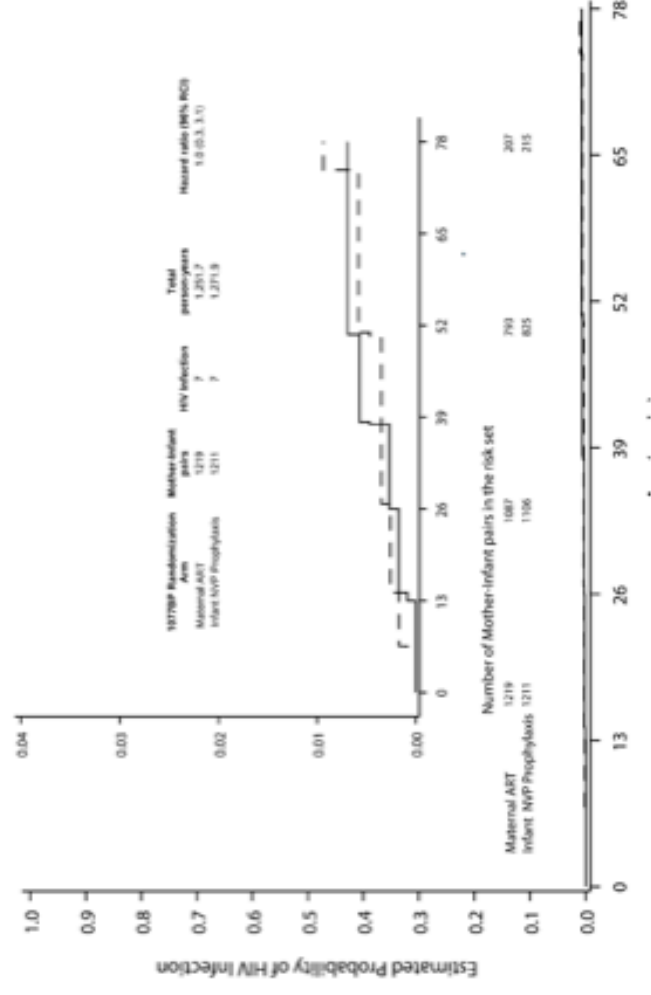
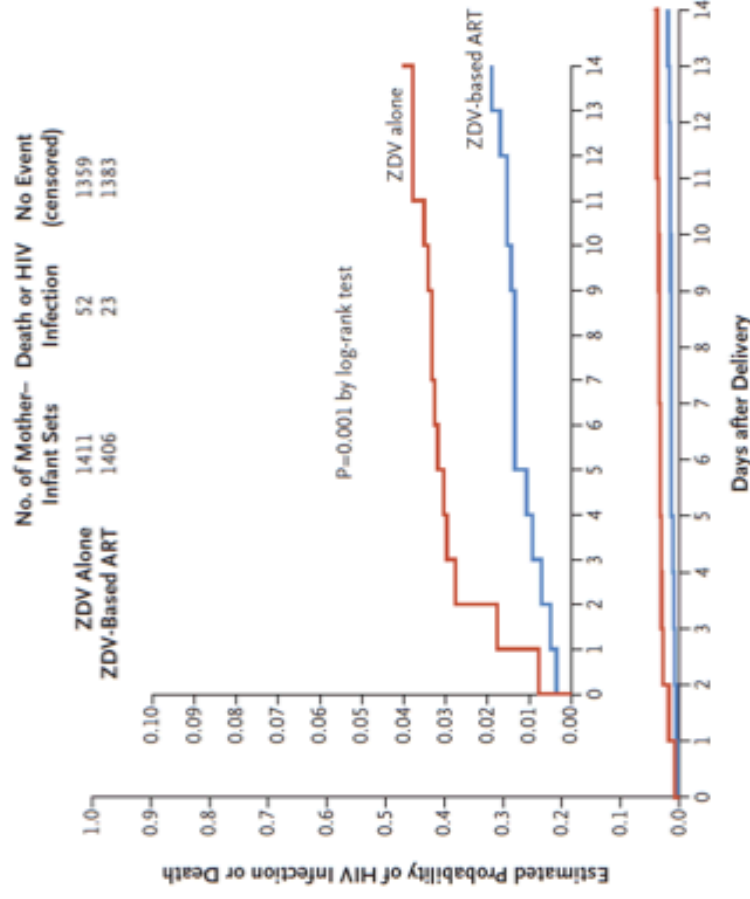


Figure 1: Sustainable Development Goals measuring protective and risk factors for child wellbeing across the life course  
ICT=Information communication technology; SRH=sexual and reproductive health.



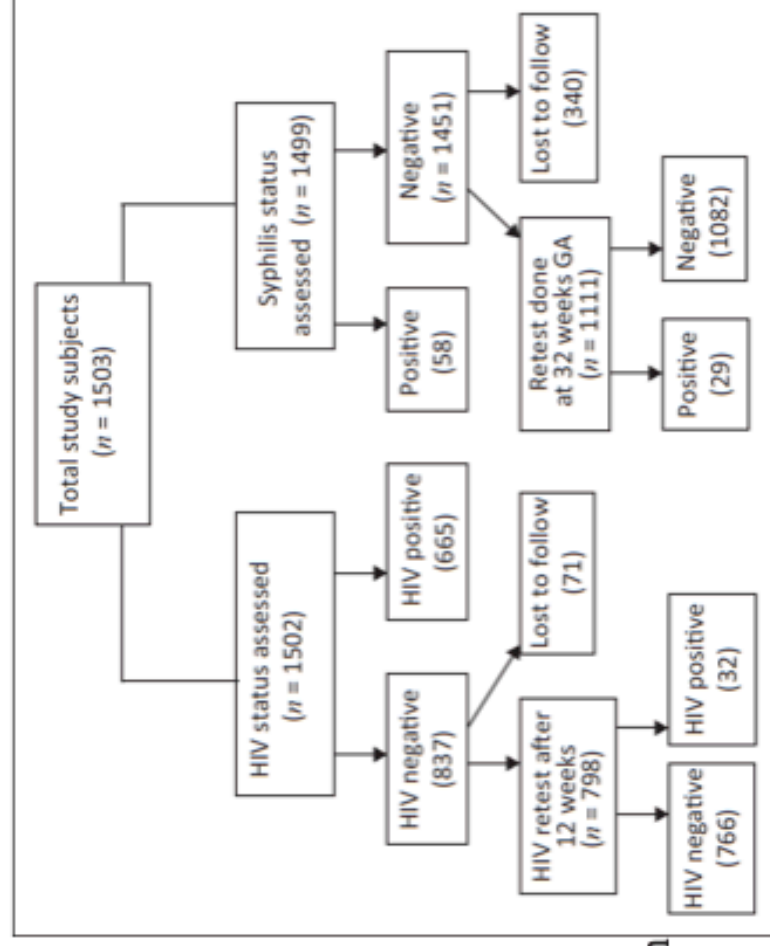
# There is excellent evidence that maternal ART prevents HIV transmission though pregnancy and breastfeeding



# Acquiring HIV during pregnancy and during breastfeeding

	HIV	Syphilis
Prevalence	44.3%	3.8%
Incidence	4%	2.6%
	17.1 /100 py	10.9/100 py

Kwadabeka Community Health Centre on the out skirts of Durban

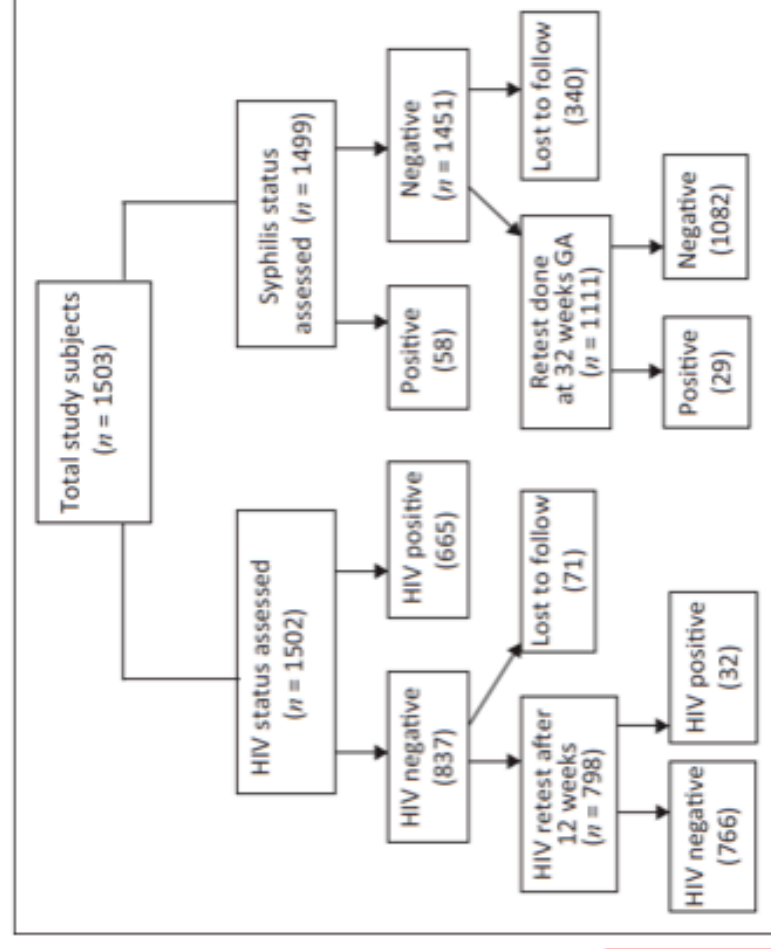


# Acquiring HIV during pregnancy and during breastfeeding

- Kwadabeka Community Health Centre on the outskirts of Durban

	HIV	Syphilis
Prevalence	44.3%	3.8%
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	17.1 /100 py	10.9/100 py

Maternal syphilis associated with infant acquiring HIV AFTER adjusting for HIV viral load  
 Co-infected infants were significantly more likely to be born to mothers with VDRL titers  $\geq 1:16$  and higher viral loads



# Detectable HIV RNA at the time of delivery is common

8147 live births in Gauteng

- <50 =63%
  - 50-1000 = 13.9%
  - >1000 22.4%
- 65/4333 (1.5%) transmissions
- 91% of transmission events vl >50copies at delivery

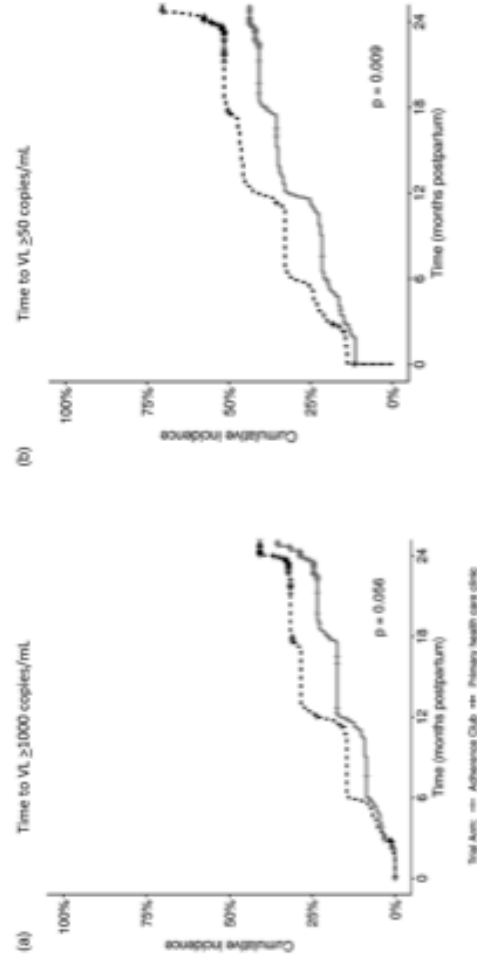
Variables	Total N = 2769	Location of TOU		
		Johannesburg B, n = 1230	Johannesburg D, n = 693	Johannesburg F, n = 309
Total live births to WLHV	8147	2103	3324	1543
Minimum PoC VL testing coverage*	34.0%	58.5%	20.8%	20.0%
Maximum PoC VL testing coverage†	48.6%	90.0%	28.2%	28.6%
VL suppression threshold				
<50 cps/mL	1762 (63.6%)	815 (66.3%)	445 (64.2%)	207 (67.0%)
≥50 cps/mL	1007 (36.4%)	415 (33.7%)	248 (35.8%)	102 (33.0%)
VL suppression threshold				
50 to <1000 cps/mL	386 (13.9%)	161 (13.1%)	92 (13.3%)	44 (14.2%)
>1000 cps/mL	2148 (77.6%)	976 (79.4%)	537 (77.5%)	251 (81.2%)
VL suppression threshold				
<1000 cps/mL	621 (22.4%)	254 (20.7%)	156 (22.5%)	58 (18.8%)
≥1000 cps/mL	862 (34.5%)	448 (41.1%)	144 (22.9%)	96 (34.0%)
Quarter of the year‡				
July-September 2018	802 (32.1%)	317 (29.1%)	199 (31.7%)	141 (50.0%)
October-December 2018	838 (33.5%)	324 (29.8%)	285 (45.4%)	45 (16.0%)
January-March 2019	862 (34.5%)	448 (41.1%)	144 (22.9%)	96 (34.0%)
April-June 2019	805 (32.5%)	317 (29.1%)	199 (31.7%)	141 (50.0%)

\*Denominator includes the total number of live births to WLHV during the study period.  
†Denominator includes the number of live births to WLHV occurring on weekdays only during the study period.  
‡June 2018, the first month of study initiation is excluded (n = 267 (9.6%) overall).  
N, number; cps/mL, copies per millilitre.

# Detectable HIV RNA in post partum period is common

409 children enrolled with VL < 1000 copies/mL  
88% < 50 copies

	AC		PHC	
	1000	50	1000	50
12 months	16%	32%	23%	42%
24 months	29%	44%	37%	56%



## What do women value

- A desire to reduce vertical transmission
  - Healthy child
  - Concern about side effects of medication on the fetus and baby
  - Desire for their own health
  - Concern about side effects and pill burden.
- 
- Women were balancing the desirable and undesirable

# What are their challenges

- Increase risk of peripartum depression and adherence challenge
- Guilt
- Stigma
- Navigation away from MOU to ART

# What can we expect

## **WLHIV**

- Reflex testing for cryptococcal infection in CD4<100 (this may change)
- Routine GeneXpert(MTB/Rif Ultra)
- Hepatitis B screening not routine
- Tuberculosis preventative therapy
- Viral load at birth
- Enhanced viral load monitoring though out pregnancy and breastfeeding
- Retest HIV :
  - 10-week visit
  - Three months postpartum then the six-month visit, and every three months whilst breastfeeding
  - Test at least every year
- Testing for syphilis every 3 months in pregnancy



# Resistance ?

After first VL >50 intervention and conformation – 4 weeks

Consider resistance if

- TLD for at least 2 years AND
- VLs  $\geq$  1000c/mL at least 2 AND
- Adherence > 80% 5

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# What do we do with the baby

- All moms get a delivery viral load
- All infants get a birth PCR
- All infants will initiate **AZT and NVP**
- Why give AZT to every one
  - Easier to implement
  - If infants don't come back "they are covered"
  - May strengthen the F/U visit messaging
  - AZT wastage +/- 6 %

# Action based on maternal VL at BIRTH

VL at delivery	Feeding choice	AZT twice a day	NVP once a day
VL < 50 copies/mL	BF	Stop with birth VL RESULT on day 3	6 weeks continue to monitor maternal VL every 6 months
	FF	Stop with birth VL RESULT on day 3	6 weeks
VL > 50 copies/mL	BF	6 weeks .	12 weeks and until VL < 50 copies OF BF stopped 4 weeks Monitor VL
	FF	6 weeks	6 weeks

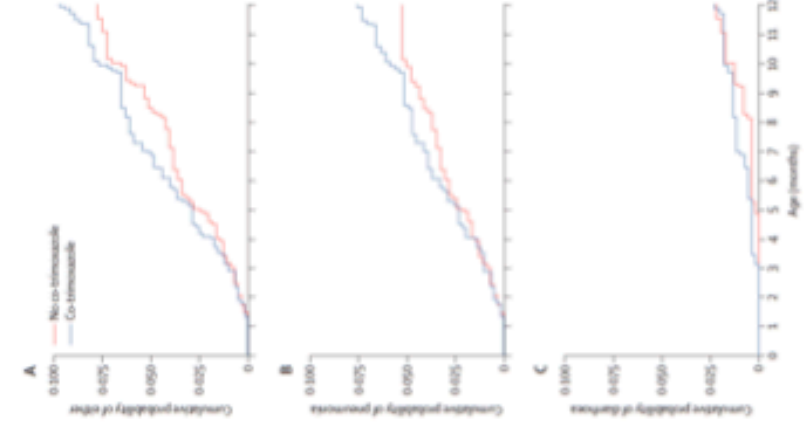
Test for HV regularly through out pregnancy and breastfeeding

Birth PCR positive = transmission occurred repeat PCR or VL and escalate to therapy

Birth PCR negative = complete prevention monitor and support mom and baby retest 6 months  
18 months 6 weeks after BF stopped

# What are we not giving?

- Cumulative evidence that cotrimoxazole prevention for infants with in utero HIV exposure and a negative PCR at birth is not needed



# What about new HIV or new detectable HIV RNA v during breastfeeding

- Adherence support
- Testing infant
- Provide prevention
  - AZT NVP
  
- Breastfeed! – mostly yes!

In a gentle way you can shake the world  
Ghandi

Thank you  
Amy Slogrove